

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A phase-change optical recording medium which attains a high erasability in overwriting at a high linear velocity and has high recording sensitivity, excellent OW cycling characteristics, and excellent weatherability. The phase-change optical recording medium comprises a substrate and formed thereon a multilayered film comprising a protective layer and a recording layer and is that information is recorded/erased based on reversible phase changes in the recording layer between a crystalline phase and an amorphous phase, wherein the protective layer is a film made of an oxide of tantalum or aluminum and at least one carbide, and the content of the carbide is from 1 to 40 mol%.